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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 8020.8J
OP-411F4

23 SEP 1986

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 8020.8J

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY COMMANDS WITH
RESPECT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXPLOSIVES SAFETY
BOARD (DDESB)

Ref: (a) DOD Directive 6055.9 of 25 Nov 1983 (NOTAL)
(b) OPNAVINST 5040.7J (NOTAL)
(c) NAVFACINST 11010.63B (NOTAL)
(d) NAVSEA Ordnance Pamphlet 5, Vol. 1, Fourth Revision
(NOTAL)
(e) OPNAVINST 8023.21C (NOTAL)
(f) MCO P11000.12C (NOTAL)
(g) NAVFACINST 11010.44E (NOTAL)
(h) OPNAVINST 8023.2C (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Policy for Routing of Communications Between DDESB
and Department of the Navy Offices, Activities, and
Agencies

1. Purpose. To advise applicable Department of the Navy (DON)
commands of the functions and responsibilities of the DDESB, and
also to advise these commands of policies concerning communica-
tions with this Board, which are outlined in enclosure (1).

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 8020.8H.

3. Background

a. In 1928, the Congress established the Joint Army-Navy
Ammunition Board for the purpose of keeping the Secretaries of
the Army and Navy continuously informed concerning explosives
hazards on military installations. This Board was later renamed
the Army-Navy Explosives Safety Board and, after creation of the
Department of Defense (DOD), it became the Armed Services Explo-
sives Safety Board. With inclusion of the Defense Agencies
within the Board's purview, it has, by reference (a), been desig-
nated the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board.

b. The broad purpose of the DDESB, as defined by the Office
of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) in reference (a), is to estab-
lish safety standards for and to provide advice concerning
hazardous conditions in the handling, transportation, and storage
of all U.S.-titled explosives and ammunition wherever located.

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c. In the accomplishment of its responsibilities, the DDESB staff conducts explosives safety surveys, on a regular basis, for military shore activities which are involved in any way with the handling, processing, or storing of explosives. NATO and other host nation facilities where U.S.-titled munitions are handled or stored are also surveyed. Additionally, ship visits may be scheduled to observe conditions under which ammunition is handled, stowed, and processed. All such surveys are OSD-sponsored and are totally independent of inspections under the Navy Command Inspection Program, reference (b), or inspections conducted by the Inspector General, U.S. Marine Corps. Normally, the commanding officer/commanding general/commander of an activity to be surveyed is notified in writing directly by the DDESB staff 2 to 4 weeks prior to the scheduled time of the survey. The responsibilities of DON commands with respect to these surveys are delineated in paragraph 4. Responsibilities of naval commands with respect to other functions of the DDESB are contained in paragraph 5.

- R) 4. Responsibilities of DON commands with respect to DDESB surveys. Commanding officers/commanding generals/commanders of units (including ships) or activities surveyed by the DDESB will:

- a. When advised of a forthcoming DDESB survey, make arrangements for all necessary assistance to the DDESB personnel. This will include provision of specific information requested in the notification, to include (as requested) ships' booklets of general plans, base/station existing conditions maps, nearby off-station area maps, on-station and nearby off-station population data, and ammunition handling, storage, and waiver/exemption data. Clerical assistance is also to be made available to DDESB personnel, if they desire. The general development map for the activity will include all military construction (MILCON) projects and other projects which have received explosives safety site-approval and final safety review (including the date of approval/review), and all projects for which site approval/safety review has been requested and is pending. It will be marked to show all appropriate explosives safety quantity distance (ESQD) arcs per the instructions contained in paragraphs II-3 and VII-12b(2) of enclosure (4) to reference (c). The distance requirement used shall be the largest distance applicable to the ammunition classes and quantities authorized for each location, as determined from tables in Chapter 5 of reference (d). (NOTE: Each shore activity with waterfront facilities at which ammunition handling by or for fleet units has been authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) shall maintain the general development map, marked per the foregoing, to indicate the distance requirement for each authorized handling point, based on the explosive handling limit established for that point.)
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b. Be present, or be personally represented, at the survey inbrief and debrief.

c. Following the debrief, take immediate action to:

(1) Correct obvious, readily-correctable violations of existing DON regulations and directives identified by DDESB survey personnel. (NOTE: Authorized waivers or exemptions, or operations conducted per the Navy Explosives Safety Standards of reference (e) are not "violations" within the intent of this requirement.)

(2) Immediately report issues and circumstances identified as unacceptable hazards, as specified in paragraph 4d.

d. Except for ships, submit to CNO (OP-411) (the DON member of the DDESB), via the appropriate chain of command (copy to Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEAYSCOM) (SEA-06G2) if not in the chain of command), a brief report indicating the results of the survey, to include all explosives safety deficiencies which were highlighted in the oral survey debrief and information as to what local corrective action was or will be taken. Negative reports are required, with message submission acceptable. This report will be forwarded within 7 working days after the completion of the survey, with an advance copy to be provided to CNO (OP-411).

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5. Responsibilities of DON commands with respect to other functions of the DDESB

a. The commanding officer/commanding general/commander of each naval shore activity at which explosives are handled, manufactured, maintained, or stowed and at which a requirement for new construction exists or modification of existing structures is planned will initiate a specific request for an explosives safety site approval and final safety review for the planned construction or modification. Requests for site approval/safety review must be submitted even if local analysis determines that no explosives hazard area will be created or involved by the construction or modification project. For amplification, see paragraph 6. For CMC-commanded activities, submission of projects shall be per reference (f) and be addressed to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (LFF). For Navy projects, submission will be per reference (g) and be addressed to the cognizant Naval Facilities Engineering Field Division for ultimate forwarding to Naval Facilities Engineering Command (COMNAVFACENGCOM).

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b. The Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command will forward all site approval/final safety review requests to the DDESB via COMNAVSEASYS COM (SEA-06G2) and CNO (OP-411) for projects which:

(1) Are located inside an existing ESQD arc.

(2) Will result in the establishment of a new ESQD arc.

(3) Will increase an existing ESQD arc.

(4) Are located in proximity to existing or potential ESQD arcs.

A) (5) Are for a facility currently under waiver/exemption, or for a facility which will replace another facility under waiver/exemption.

A) (6) There is any question concerning the project's relation or proximity to explosives. If doubt exists, submission must be accomplished and CNO will make final determination concerning the required approval level.

R) c. The Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command will review all Military Construction (MILCON) and other projects related to explosives or operations involving explosives from a technical viewpoint and make recommendations concerning conformance with explosives safety standards and acceptability for site approval and/or final safety review.

6. Amplification

a. The site approval/safety review requirements of paragraph 5a are based on the following:

(1) Paragraphs E2b and F8 of reference (a) require submission of site plans for DDESB review and approval for construction of new, or modification of existing, facilities involving ammunition and explosives. Included are all projects, no matter how funded, which involve facilities where U.S.-titled munitions may be handled or stored. Determination as to whether DDESB review is or is not required will normally be made only by CNO (Op-411), acting as the DON member of the DDESB.

(2) Siting plans for new, major construction will be reviewed by DDESB and at least a preliminary site approval obtained prior to inclusion of the project in a specific budget year program.

(3) When a facility has been reviewed by the DDESB and not approved for construction because of non-compliance with explosives safety criteria, and, for operational reasons, the facility must be

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built, CNO must obtain a Secretarial Certification. Each of the available alternatives must be considered in turn. If none of these alternatives will achieve the desired end result, and no other site exists where the facility can be built to meet explosives safety criteria, CNO will prepare a memorandum to the Secretary of the Navy. This memorandum will provide complete background on and full details concerning the proposed facility. The following information will be required so that this memorandum may be prepared:

(a) Full justification, including the complete background, to support the need to construct the facility at the proposed site, and certification that this is the only site where the facility can be constructed.

(b) Detailed description of the operations to be conducted at the facility, and the impact on fleet operations and readiness if the facility is not constructed. A certification that an operational necessity (as defined in paragraph 2b of of enclosure (2) to reference (h)) exists must be included.

(c) Advantages and disadvantages of:

1. Building the proposed facility.

2. All alternatives, including the reason why each was not recommended. An alternative which must also be addressed is to retain the status quo (i.e. do not build the facility).

(d) Complete information on all explosives safety considerations taken into account to provide maximum safety and protection for the facility and personnel present there. Included should be:

1. Exact distances from potential explosion sites (PES), quantities and classes of explosives present at those PESs, and frequency of use of the PESs.

2. Number of personnel who will be present inside explosives safety quantity distance arcs, with a breakdown of personnel by the categories active duty, civilian employees, and civilian non-employees. Also include the expected duration of presence within the arcs for all categories of personnel.

3. Any type of building hardening, window glazing, etc. which is proposed, as well as any other considerations which will effect and/or improve safety at the site.

(e) Resource implications, to include the latest projected cost of the facility and information on which year it is budgeted.

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If the Secretary of Navy concurs that the project as sited is required, a certification letter will be sent to the DDESB stating that, in order to satisfy an operational requirement, a facility which does not meet all explosives safety criteria is required to be built.

A) (4) Waivers cannot be issued as part of the site approval process.

b. For the purpose of this directive, piers and wharves at which ammunition handling has been authorized for the purpose of fleet support are considered as ammunition handling locations, but not as ordnance facilities (as defined in reference (h)).

c. The determination of ESQD arcs must be based on all classes of ammunition which are authorized to be handled, stored, or processed in any way at the shore activity involved, or, if appropriate, at an adjacent shore activity, regardless of ownership. The largest distance applicable, as indicated in paragraph 4a, shall be used to identify the ESQD arc.

7. Report. Symbol OPNAV 8020-3 has been assigned to the requirement contained in paragraph 4d and is approved for three years only from the date of this directive.


T. J. HUGHES
 Deputy Chief of Naval
 Operations (Logistics)

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POLICY FOR ROUTING OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN DDESB AND
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY OFFICES, ACTIVITIES, AND AGENCIES

1. General. All communications to or from the DDESB shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be processed through CNO (OP-411), via the appropriate chain of command, per the instructions below.

2. Written communication. (Letters, messages, reports, memoranda, etc.):

a. Written communications originated within the Department of the Navy and intended for the DDESB shall be routed via the appropriate chain of command to COMNAVSEASYS COM (SEA-06G2) and CNO (OP-411). Direct correspondence with the DDESB is not authorized. Correspondence originated outside Navy channels but processed through the Navy shall be treated as though it originated within the Navy for the purpose of this rule.

b. Written communications originated by the DDESB and addressed to any command or level within the Department of the Navy shall immediately be readdressed to CNO (OP-411). Messages so addressed shall be readdressed to CNO for action. An exception to this rule is visit (survey) notifications sent out by the DDESB. In these cases, the addressee of such notification need not readdress the notification correspondence but will ensure that CNO (OP-411) is informed of the result of the survey, as specified in paragraph 4d. (R)

3. Informal communication. Informal communication by telephone with individual staff members of the DDESB is authorized; however, any such communication with the Chairperson of the DDESB shall be effected only with the approval of, and preferably by, the Department of the Navy Member of the DDESB, or, in his/her absence, the Alternate DON Member. No presentation, however rough or informal, is to be made to the Chairperson or to staff members of the DDESB without prior approval of the DON Member/Alternate Member, and all such presentations will be attended by one of these officials unless attendance is specifically declined.

Enclosure (1)